

# **Text** Structure

## **Patterns of Organization**

# What is **Text** Structure?

**How information in a passage is organized**

We will study **six common patterns**:

- **Chronological**
- **Cause and Effect**
- **Compare and Contrast**
- **Problem and Solution**
- **Sequence / Process**
- **Spatial / Descriptive**

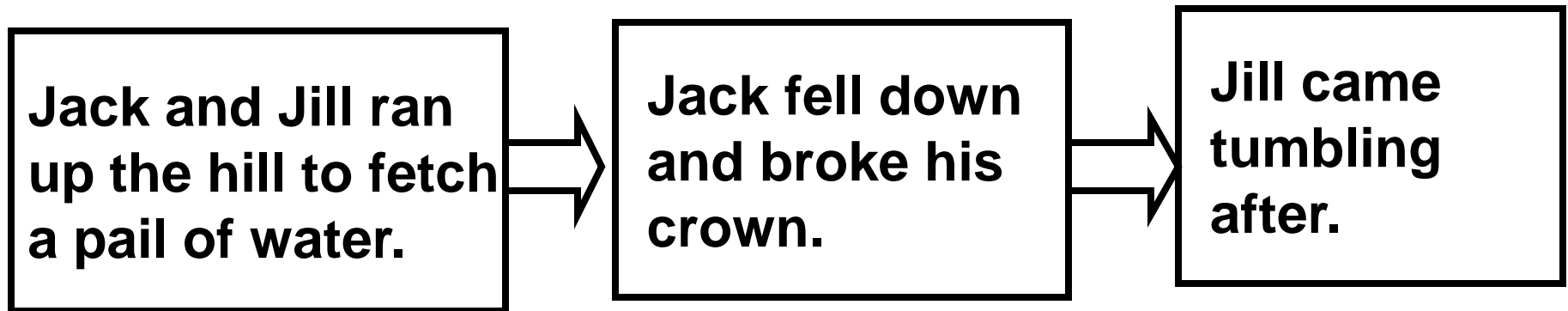
# Chronological

Information is organized in order of time.

**Chrono** = time

**Logic** = order

## Example



**ALL** stories are told **chronologically**.

# Cause and Effect

**An action and its results are explained.**

## Cause

**Students did not learn  
the material.**

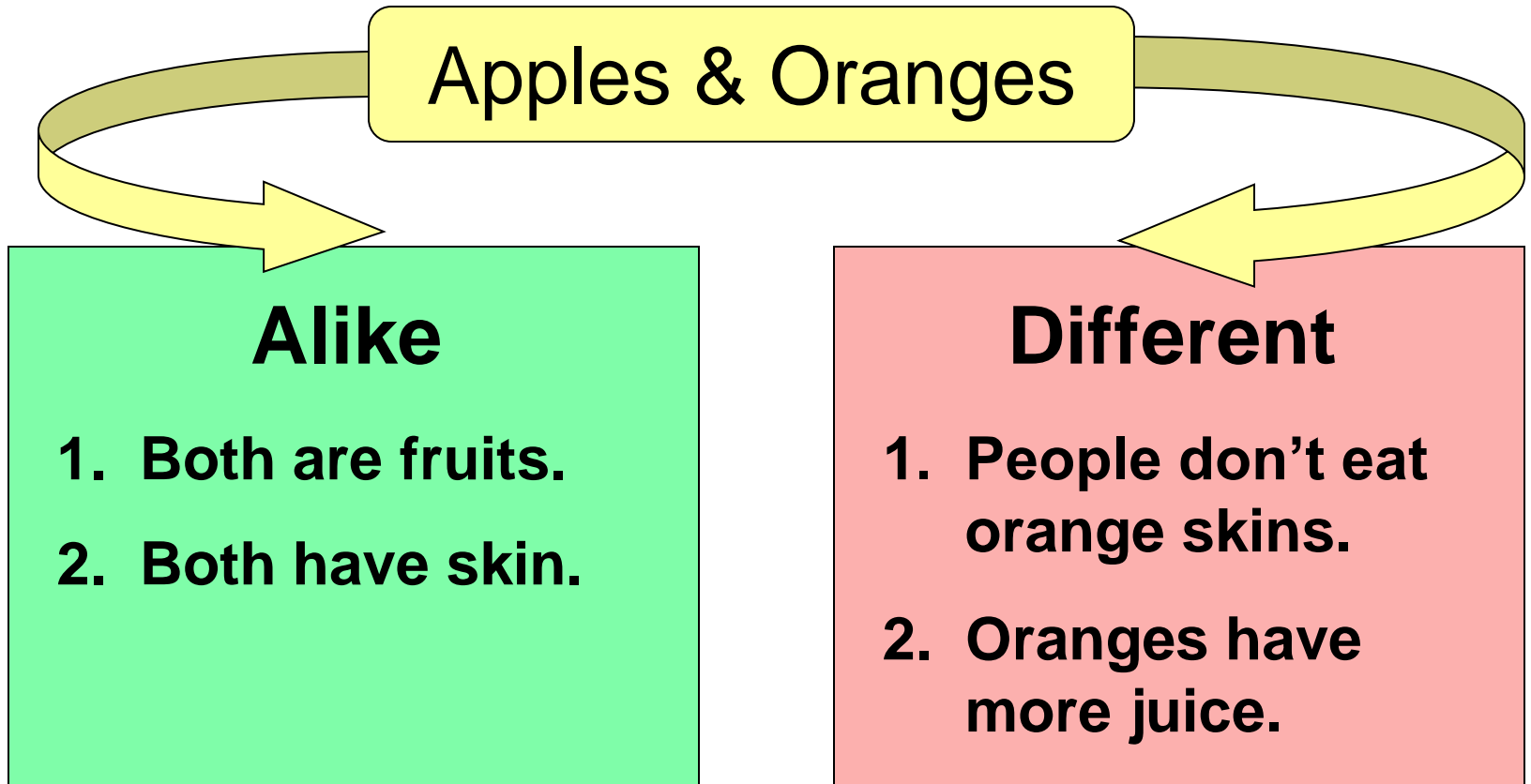
## Effect

**They performed  
poorly on the test.**

- **Don't confuse with **chronological**.**
- **Won't have a beginning, middle, and end.**
- **Time won't progress much.**

# Compare and Contrast

Tells how two things are similar and different.



# Problem and Solution

A problem and answer are suggested.

## Problem

Property is being  
spray painted.

## Solution

Require a license  
to buy spray paint.

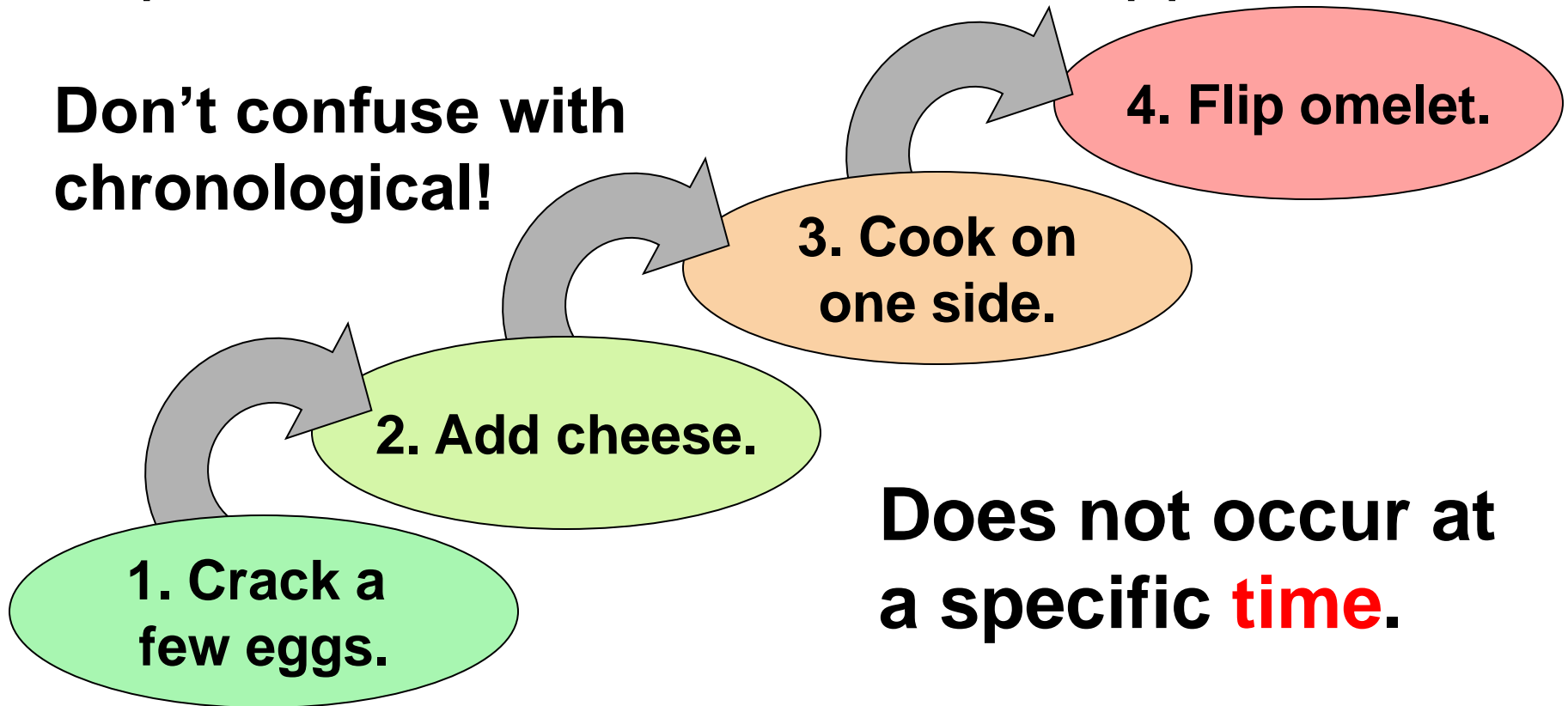
- Don't confuse with cause and effect.
- It is presented as a **PROBLEM**.

# Sequence / Process Writing

Information is listed **step-by-step**.

Explains how to do *it* or how *it* happens.

**Don't confuse with  
chronological!**



**Does not occur at  
a specific **time**.**

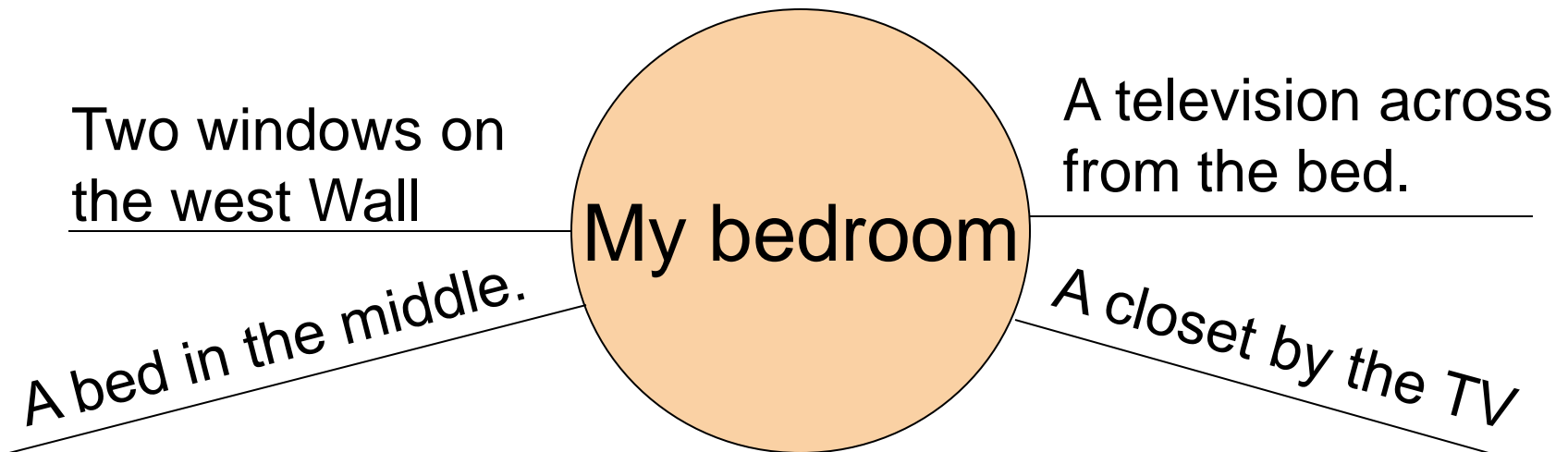
# Spatial / Descriptive Writing

Racial is to race as **spatial** is to **space**.

Describes something in order of space.

Describes how something looks.

**TIME DOESN'T PASS** in these passages.





# Tips to **Identify**

1. Ask, “**what is the author doing in this paragraph?**” Put it in your own words.
2. Have a hunch? Use the graphic organizer to see if the info fits.
3. Look for signal words.

# Practice

1. Read each passage.
2. Determine how the text is organized: cause and effect, compare and contrast, chronological order, sequence / process writing, problem and solution, or spatial / descriptive.
3. Write your answer.

# Popular Sports

Football and baseball are two of the most popular sports in the country. They have many things in common. For one, they are both team sports, and they both require players to advance to an end or “home” point on the playing field. However, football requires players to carry the ball to the end zone, whereas in baseball, it is the defending team that controls the ball while it is in play.

# The Magic Blanket

One day while walking home from school, he found a magic blanket. When he covered himself with it, he turned invisible. At first he used his power to play all kinds of tricks on people. He'd turn invisible and hide things, or move a cup when someone was pouring juice to make a mess. He had a lot of fun. But then one day, he found that he couldn't take the blanket off. He was just stuck invisible. He quit playing tricks on people, hoping that he'd be able to take the blanket off and rejoin society, but it didn't work. He is still invisible somewhere right now, and he is very lonely.

# Studying for a Test

Believe it or not, as important as it is, many students do not know how to study for a test. Well, studying for a test is easy. The first thing that you must do is take out your notes. Open your notes up to the section that you are supposed to review. Read what you wrote in your notebook. When you are done, close your notebook and see if you remember the ideas that you were studying. Still don't remember? Open your notebook back up and try again.

# Low **Test** Scores

Many students have been getting low scores on tests and this is upsetting to parents, teachers, and students. Low test scores show that teachers aren't teaching effectively or that students aren't learning. Either way it's an issue with which we are concerned. I propose the following: any teacher who is giving a test should open up their classroom for study groups the night and morning before the test. Maybe by giving students extra opportunities to study, we can improve students' test scores.

# **Peanut Butter and Jelly**

After a long day at school, I came home and watched “Cops,” my favorite show. During the commercial breaks, I got up and made a peanut butter and jelly sandwich. I took the bread out of the cabinet, spread the jelly and peanut butter on the bread, and stuck the two pieces together. I enjoyed that sandwich as I watched the rest of “Cops.”

# The Gym Room

The gym room at the high school down the street from me is huge. Along the North and South walls are bleachers that fold up during gym. Coach pulls the bleachers out for big games. At the end of the East and West walls are basketball hoops. The ceilings are very high and at the top of the gym are many large windows. The windows go all the way around the gym. There are also ropes that are either tucked away or hang from the ceilings in the middle of the gym. The ropes intimidate some students. That gym is my favorite place.



# Eligibility

Being involved in after school sports and clubs is not a right. It is a privilege. Therefore, students have to meet eligibility requirements. If students have any “D”s or “F”s, they are not allowed to play. Also, if students have behavior issues in class, they cannot be on the team or in the club. Lastly, students need to keep good attendance. If students miss school, they most certainly cannot come to practice. Being on a team is a lot of responsibility. If students are not proving to be responsible, they will not be permitted to be in clubs or teams.

# Answers

1. Compare and contrast
2. Chronological
3. Sequence or process writing
4. Problem and solution
5. Chronological
6. Spatial / descriptive writing
7. Cause and effect